

2.2 Water Pollution Control Programs

DRBC's water pollution control program is carried out through a series of interdependent steps and provides a rational approach to protecting and restoring water quality in the Basin. The waters of the Basin are protected for designated uses with water quality objectives that specify what levels of individual parameters are appropriate, based upon a review of the current scientific understanding about the needs of those uses. DRBC's monitoring programs provide a mechanism to evaluate how those water quality objectives are being met, and assessment of those monitored data provide the link to how well the designated uses are being protected. The identified impairment of interstate waters in the Basin leads to the development of TMDLs and the issuing of permits to reduce loading of pollutants in order to improve water quality to those levels that meet the objectives. In addition, DRBC has other layers of protection (see Special Protection Waters below) that aim to maintain existing water quality where it is better than the water quality objectives.

2.2.1 Watershed Approach

Because activities that affect the water quality of the Basin's many streams can individually or cumulatively impact the water quality of the main stem River, many of DRBC's regulations and programs are based on a watershed concept and focus on those interrelationships. The following are examples of how the Commission takes a multi-faceted approach to water quality regulation.

Special Protection Waters

Currently, portions of the Delaware River are designated by DRBC as "Special Protection Waters" (differentiated as either Outstanding Basin Waters or Significant Resource Waters) and have associated with them a variety of specific pollution prevention and reduction requirements. Designated reaches are comprised of (see Figure 2.2):

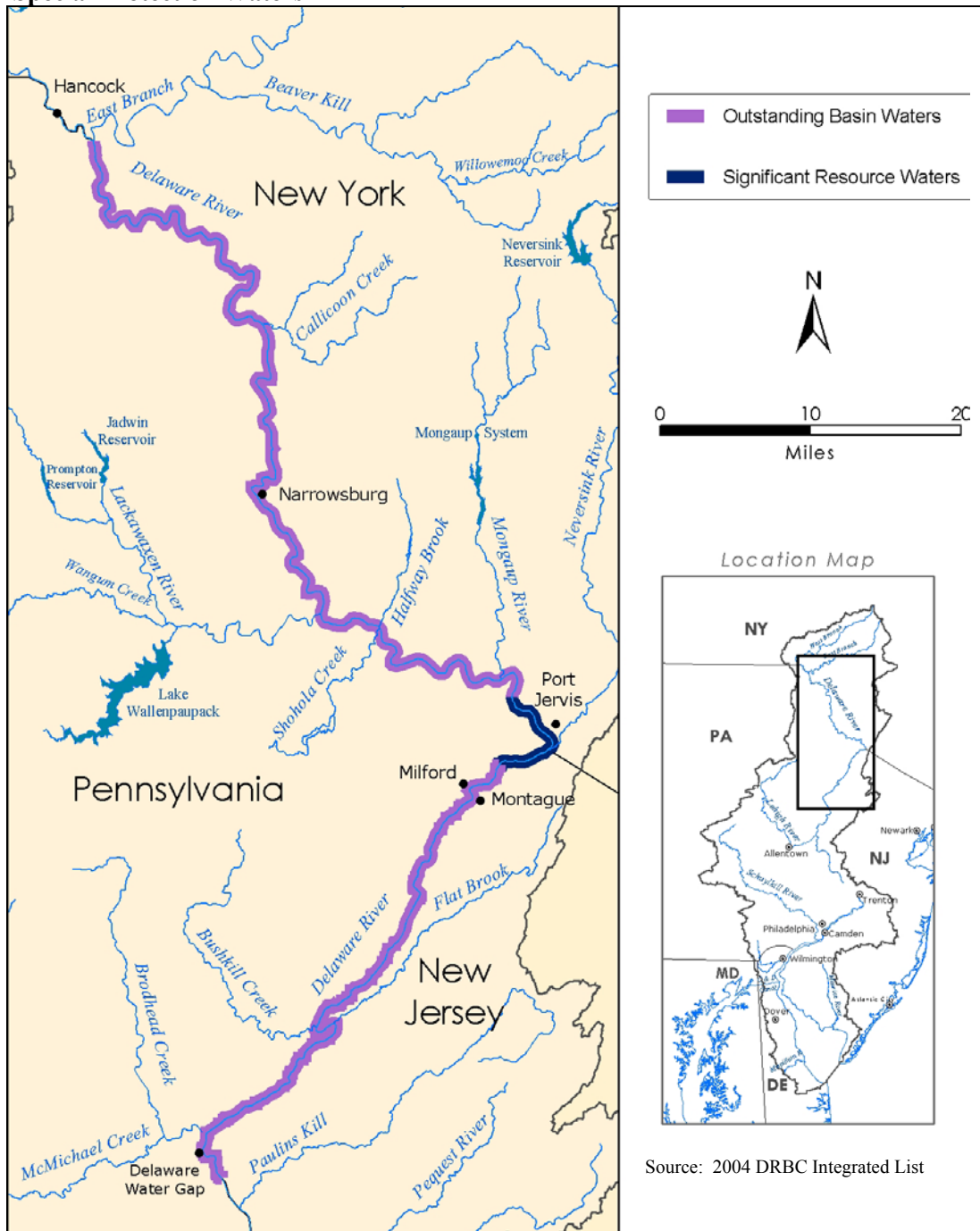
Outstanding Basin Waters

- The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from Hancock, NY to Milrift, NY (Delaware River between River Miles 330.7 and 258.4)
- Portions of intrastate tributaries located within the established boundary of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Corridor
- The Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from Milrift, NY to the Delaware Water Gap (Delaware River between River Miles 250.1 and 209.5)
- Portions of tributaries located within the established boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Significant Resource Waters

- The Delaware River between River Miles from Milrift, NY to Milford, PA 258.4 and 250.1

Figure 2.2: Special Protection Waters



Special Protection Waters regulations take a watershed approach to antidegradation of water quality. The regulations apply to the drainage area of the designated waters. Policies provide an up-front approach to reducing or eliminating new pollutant loadings, through requirements made in the docket (permit) review process, for the purpose of maintaining “Existing Water Quality” (EWQ) in designated waters. This is accomplished, in part, by looking at the cumulative impacts of point and nonpoint sources as they may affect the designated waters, either through direct discharge or through tributary loading. EWQ is defined (in DRBC Water Quality Regulations) as “the actual concentration of a water constituent at an in-stream site or sites, as determined through field measurements and laboratory analysis of data collected over a time period determined by the Commission to adequately reflect the

natural range of the hydraulic and climatologic factors which affect water quality”. Numerical criteria for Special Protection Waters EWQ are defined as “(a) an annual or seasonal mean of the available water quality data, (b) two-tailed upper and lower 95 percent confidence limits around the mean, and (c) the 10th and 90th percentiles of the dataset from which the mean was calculated.” EWQ was defined for the above-mentioned portions of the River in 1992.

Estuary CBOD Allocations

DRBC allocates loading of carbonaceous biological oxygen demand (CBOD) among dischargers in the Delaware Estuary. Allowable loads are apportioned through the permit review process by utilizing steady-state modeling to estimate the cumulative impacts of discharges. As the assimilative capacity of a zone is reached, or when allocations existing at that time are no longer equitable, the capacity in the zone, minus a reserve, is reallocated among the waste dischargers in that zone.

Integrated Resource Planning

In 1998, DRBC amended its Southeast Pennsylvania Ground Water Protected Area (SPGWA) Regulations (adopted 1980) to include watershed-based ground water withdrawal limits for sub-basins that lie entirely or partially within the SPGWA. As required by the Regulations, those withdrawal limits may be revised by the Commission to be more protective of streams designated by the State of Pennsylvania as either “high quality” or “exceptional value”, or “wild” or “scenic”, or “pastoral”, or to correspond to more stringent requirements in “integrated resource plans” adopted and implemented by all municipalities in the sub-basin. Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs) must assess water resources and existing uses of water; estimate future water demands and resource requirements; evaluate supply-side and demand-side alternatives to meet water withdrawal needs; assess options for wastewater discharge to subsurface formations and streams; consider storm water and floodplain management; assess the capacity of the sub-basin to meet present and future demands for withdrawal and non-withdrawal uses such as instream flows; identify potential conflicts and problems; incorporate public participation; and outline plans and programs including land use ordinances to resolve conflicts and meet needs. The development of IRPs helps focus and coordinate planning tools to consider the multiple uses of water resources and the interrelationships of water quality and quantity to meet various needs.

Basin Planning Process

DRBC is currently heading a process to develop a “forward-looking” Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin. This plan outlines numerous mechanisms for protecting, preserving and enhancing the water resources of the Basin, on a watershed basis, through the development of desired outcomes, goals, objectives, indicators and management strategies. The plan is multi-faceted in its approach and calls for the active involvement of a broad range of governmental and non-governmental entities in addition to DRBC.

The Plan includes such concepts as the integration of water resources considerations into land use planning and management, the development of analytical tools to evaluate water resources impacts of municipal land use plans, the preparation of all necessary TMDLs by the dates required by states, and the use of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to maintaining and improving water quality where it is better than criteria.

2.2.2 Water Quality Standards Program

Water quality standards provide a description of water body uses to be protected as well as water quality objectives necessary to protect those uses. DRBC’s water quality standards program derives its authority from Section 3.2 of the Delaware River Basin Compact (1961) which directs the Commission to adopt “a comprehensive plan...for the immediate and long range development and uses of the water resources of the basin” and to adopt “a water resources program, based upon the comprehensive plan, which shall include a systematic presentation of the quantity and quality of water resources needs of the area...”; and Section 5.2 which allows the Commission to “assume jurisdiction to control future pollution and abate existing pollution in the waters of the basin, whenever it determines...that the effectuation of the comprehensive plan so requires.”

Designated Uses

Water uses are paramount in determining stream quality objectives, which, in turn, are the basis for determining discharge effluent quality requirements. Water quality standards require that all surface waters of the Basin be maintained in a safe and satisfactory condition for the following uses:

- Agricultural, industrial and public water supplies after reasonable treatment, except where natural salinity precludes such uses;
- Wildlife, fish and other aquatic life;
- Recreation;
- Navigation;
- Controlled and regulated waste assimilation to the extent that such use is compatible with other uses;
- Such other uses as may be provided by the Commission's Comprehensive Plan

Designated uses have been established specifically for the interstate zones of the Delaware River, as described in Tables 2.2 and 2.3. Figure 2.3 depicts the main-stem zones in the Basin and Table 2.4 shows the application of designated uses to specific zones. Zones 1A-E (assessed for this report) and Zones E, W1, W2, N1 and N2 (not assessed for this report) represent the non-tidal portions of the Delaware River. Zones 2-6 (assessed in this report) and C1-8 (not assessed in this report) represent the Estuary, or tidal portions of the River, including the tidal portions of the tributaries to the River.

Figure 2.3: Main Stem Water Quality Zones for the Delaware River



Source: 2004 DRBC Integrated List

Table 2.2: Main Stem, Shared Delaware River Water Quality Zones

Zone	Location
1A	RM 330.7 - 289.9
1B	RM 289.9 - 254.75
1C	RM 254.75 - 217.0
1D	RM 217.0 - 183.66
1E	RM 183.66 - 133.4
2	RM 133.4 - 108.4
3	RM 108.4 - 95.0
4	RM 95.0 - 78.8
5	RM 78.8 - 48.2
6	RM 48.2 - 0.0

Note: Zones 1A to 1D (RM 209.5) are currently Special Protection Waters. 1D (from RM 209.5) to 1E has been proposed as Special Protection Waters.

Table 2.3: Other Interstate Delaware River Zones (not assessed in this report)

Zone	Location
E	E. Branch to RM 330.7
W1	W. Branch to RM 330.7
W2	RM 1.8 on Sand Pond Ck. to RM 10.1 on W. Branch; Cat Hollow Bk. to RM 1.05 on Sand Pond Ck.; Sherman Ck. to RM 1.8 on Sand Pond Ck.; unnamed Sherman Ck. trib. to RM 1.6 on Sherman Ck.; Starboard Ck. to RM 1.81 on Sand Pond Ck.
N1	RM 0.5 on Neversink R. to RM 253.64
N2	Clove Bk. to RM 0.5 on Neversink R.; unnamed Clove Bk. trib. to RM 1.0 on Clove Bk.; unnamed trib. to Clove Bk. trib. to RM 0.7 on Clove Bk. trib.
C1	Source to RM 16.3 on Christina River
C2	W. Branch Christina R. to RM 25.7 on Christina R.; Persimmon Run to RM 0.8 on W. Branch Christina R.; E. Branch Christina R. to RM 30.2 on Christina R.
C3	White Clay Ck. to RM 14.7 at PA-DE line
C4	RM 14.7 on White Clay Ck. to RM 10.0 on Christina R.
C5	RM 13.4 on Red Clay Ck. to RM 12.6 at PA-DE line; W. Branch Red Clay Ck. to RM 13.4 on Red Clay Ck.
C6	RM 12.6 on Red Clay Ck. at PA-DE line to RM 2.6 on White Clay Ck.
C7	RM 20.0 on Brandywine Ck. to head of tide at RM 2.0 on Brandywine Ck.; W. Branch Brandywine Ck. to RM 20.0 on Brandywine Ck.
C8	Naaman Ck. to head of tide in DE

Table 2.4: Assignment of Designated Uses to the Mainstem Delaware River

Designated Uses	Applicable Zones
Agricultural water supplies	Zones 1,2 and 3
Industrial water supplies after reasonable treatment	All Zones
Maintenance and propagation of resident fish and other aquatic life	Zones 2 and 6
Maintenance and propagation of resident game fish and other aquatic life	Zone 1
Maintenance and propagation of shellfish	Zone 6
Maintenance and propagation of trout	Zone 1A
Maintenance of resident fish and other aquatic life	Zones 3-5
Navigation	Zones 2-6
Passage of anadromous fish	Zones 2-6
Propagation of resident fish	Zone 5 (RM 70.0-48.2)
Public water supplies after reasonable treatment	Zones 1,2 and 3
Recreation	Zones 1, 2, 4 (below RM 81.8), 5 and 6
Secondary contact recreation	Zones 3 and 4 (above RM 81.8)
Spawning and nursery habitat for anadromous fish	Zones 1A-1E
Wildlife	All Zones

Ambient Water Quality Standards

Sections 3.20, 3.30, and 3.40 of DRBC's Water Quality Regulations define the "Water Quality Objectives", or ambient water quality standards for the non-tidal river, tidal river and Basin ground water, respectively. Objectives are zone-based and define the water quality necessary to protect the designated uses in those zones. For the water quality assessments in Part 3, monitored data are compared against the zone standards for determining use attainment. Table 2.5 shows the water quality objectives for the non-tidal main stem and Table 2.6 shows the objectives for the tidal portions of the Delaware River main stem and tributaries.

Table 2.5: Water Quality Objectives for Non-tidal Delaware River Zones

Parameter	Zones																	
	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	E	W1	W2	N1	N2	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8
BACTERIA--FECAL COLIFORM --Not to exceed 200 per 100 ml as a geometric average; samples shall be taken at such frequency and location as to permit valid interpretation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ALKALINITY --Not less than 20 mg/l					X													
DISSOLVED OXYGEN																		
Not less than 4.0 mg/l at any time		X	X	X	X				X		X	X		X		X	X	X
Not less than 5.0 mg/l at any time	X					X	X	X		X			X		X			
Not less than 7.0 mg/l in spawning areas whenever temperatures are suitable for trout spawning	X					X	X	X		X			X		X			
Minimum 24 hour average of 5.0 mg/l		X	X	X	X				X		X	X		X		X	X	X
Minimum 24 hour average of 6.0 mg/l	X					X	X	X		X			X		X			
PHENOLS --Not to exceed 0.005 mg/l unless due to natural conditions	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
PH																		
Between 6.0 and 8.5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Between 6.5 and 8.5									X	X							X	
RADIOACTIVITY --Alpha emitters not to exceed 3 pc/l (picocuries per liter); Beta emitters not to exceed 1000 pc/l	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SYNTHETIC DETERGENTS (Methylene Blue Active Substances (M.B.A.S.)) --Not to exceed 0.5 mg/l	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Table 2.5 Continued

Parameter	Zones																	
	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	E	W1	W2	N1	N2	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8
TEMPERATURE																		
Not to exceed 5 degrees F (2.8 degrees C) rise above ambient temperature until stream temperature reaches 50 degrees F (10 degrees C)	X					X	X	X		X			X		X			
Not to exceed 2 degrees F (1.1 degrees C) rise above ambient temperature when stream temperature is between 50 degrees F (10 degrees C) and 58 degrees F (14.4 degrees C)	X					X	X	X		X			X		X			
Natural temperature will prevail above 58 degrees F (14.4 degrees C)	X					X	X	X		X			X		X			
Not to exceed 5 degrees F (2.8 degrees C) rise above ambient temperature until stream temperature reaches 87 degrees F (30.6 degrees C)		X	X	X	X				X		X	X		X		X	X	X
Natural temperature will prevail above 87 degrees F (30.6 degrees C)		X	X	X	X				X		X	X		X		X	X	X
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS --Not to exceed 133 percent of background, or 500 mg/l, whichever is less	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TURBIDITY																		
Unless exceeded due to natural conditions: maximum 30 day average 10 units, maximum 150 units	X	X																
Not to exceed the natural background by 10 units, or a maximum of 25 units, whichever is less											X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Unless exceeded due to natural conditions: maximum 30 day average 20 units, maximum 150 units			X	X														
Unless exceeded due to natural conditions: maximum 30 day average 30 units, maximum 150 units					X													
Increases not to be attributable to industrial waste discharges											X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
THRESHOLD ODOR NUMBER --Not to exceed 24 units at 60 degrees C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Table 2.6: Water Quality Objectives for the Tidal Delaware River Zones (Estuary)

Parameter	Zone				
	2	3	4	5	6
BACTERIA--FECAL COLIFORM					
Maximum geometric average 200 per 100 ml	X			X	X
Maximum geometric average 770 per 100 ml		X			
Above R.M. 81.8 maximum geometric average 770 per 100 ml			X		
Below R.M. 81.8 maximum geometric average 200 per 100 ml			X		
BACTERIA--ENTEROCOCCUS					
Maximum geometric average 33 per 100 ml	X				
Maximum geometric average 88 per 100 ml		X			
Above R.M. 81.8 maximum geometric average 88 per 100 ml			X		
Below R.M. 81.8 maximum geometric average 33 per 100 ml			X		
Maximum geometric average 35 per 100 ml				X	X
BACTERIA--COLIFORM, TOTAL--MPN (most probable number) not to exceed Federal shellfish standards in designated shellfish areas					X
ALKALINITY					
Maintain between 20-100 mg/l	X				
Maintain between 20-120 mg/l		X	X	X	X
DISSOLVED OXYGEN					
Not less than 5.0 mg/l at any time unless due to natural conditions					X
Minimum 24 hour average of 3.5 mg/l		X	X		
Minimum 24 hour average of 5.0 mg/l	X				
Minimum 24 hour average of 6.0 mg/l					X
Minimum 24 hour average concentration: At R.M. 78.8: 3.5 mg/l At R.M. 70.0: 4.5 mg/l At R.M. 59.5: 6.0 mg/l				X	
During the periods from April 1 to June 15 and September 16 to December 31, the dissolved oxygen shall not have a seasonal average less than 6.5 mg/l	X	X	X	X	

Table 2.6 Continued

Parameter	Zone				
	2	3	4	5	6
CHLORIDE					
Maximum 15-day average concentration of 50 mg/l	X				
Maximum 30-day average concentration of 180 mg/l at R.M. 98		X			
PHENOLS					
Not to exceed 0.005 mg/l unless due to natural conditions	X	X			
Maximum 0.02 mg/l, unless exceeded due to natural conditions			X		
Maximum 0.01 mg/l, unless exceeded due to natural conditions				X	X
PH --Between 6.5 and 8.5	X	X	X	X	X
HARDNESS					
Maximum 30 day average of 95 mg/l	X				
Maximum 30 day average of 150 mg/l		X			
RADIOACTIVITY					
Alpha emitters not to exceed 3 pc/l (picocuries per liter)	X	X	X	X	X
Beta emitters not to exceed 1000 pc/l	X	X	X	X	X
SODIUM —Maximum 30 day average concentration of 100 mg/l at R.M. 98		X			
SYNTHETIC DETERGENTS (Methylene Blue Active Substances (M.B.A.S.))					
Maximum 30 day average of 0.5 mg/l	X				
Maximum 30 day average of 1.0 mg/l		X	X	X	X

Table 2.6 Continued

Parameter	Zone				
	2	3	4	5	6
TEMPERATURE					
Shall not exceed 5 degrees F (2.8 degrees C) above the average 24-hour temperature gradient displayed during the 1961-66 period, or a maximum of 86 degrees F (30 degrees C), whichever is less	X	X	X		
Shall not be raised above ambient by more than: 1) 4 degrees F (2.2 degrees C) during September through May, nor 2) 1.5 degrees F (0.8 degrees C) during June through August;				X	X
The maximum temperatures shall not exceed 86 degrees F (30.0 degrees C)				X	
The maximum temperatures shall not exceed 85 degrees F (29.4 degrees C)					X
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS					
Not to exceed 133 percent of background, or 500 mg/l, whichever is less	X	X			
Not to exceed 133 percent of background			X		
TURBIDITY					
Unless exceeded due to natural conditions: maximum 30 day average 40 units, maximum 150 units	X	X	X	X	X
Unless exceeded due to natural conditions above R.M. 117.81 during the period May 30 to September 15, maximum 30 units	X				
THRESHOLD ODOR NUMBER --Not to exceed 24 units at 60 degrees C	X	X	X	X	X

Ambient Standards for Drinking Water Sources

Zones 1, 2 and 3 of the Delaware River are given the designated use of “public water supplies after reasonable treatment”. It is the general policy of DRBC that all ground water of the Basin, as well as surface sources of drinking water, should not exceed maximum contaminant levels (MCL) given in the National Primary Drinking Water Standards. In Zones 2 and 3, there is additional definition of the permissible levels of specific toxicants in waters designated for both drinking water as well as fish consumption (due to the bioaccumulation of certain substances even at very low ambient levels). Appendix A includes tables from DRBC’s Water Quality Regulations that show the toxics criteria for Zones 2 and 3.

Changes to Water Quality Standards

Ongoing Review of Water Quality Regulations

The last amendment of the Water Quality Regulations occurred in 1996. Currently, DRBC, through its Water Quality Advisory Committee, is developing recommendations to revise its standards under authority of Section 5.2 of the Compact which states that the Commission “may adopt and from time to time amend and repeal rules, regulations and standards” to control future pollution and abate existing pollution. A final, approved version of those rules, amended with any proposed changes, is not available at the time of this report and all water quality assessments presented here are based upon the Water Quality Regulations, as they existed during the 2000 through 2002 monitoring seasons.

Progress Toward Implementing Biocriteria

The Commission does not currently use biological criteria for 305(b) assessments or determinations of impairment, other than reports arising from fish-tissue toxics analyses and inference of aquatic life use support based upon water chemistry. Macroinvertebrate biocriteria were developed for DRBC’s Special Protection Waters rules issued in 1992, and have been undergoing review as part of DRBC’s anti-degradation policy.

With the launch of DRBC's Lower Delaware Monitoring Program in 1999, declaration of most of the non-tidal Delaware River as Wild and Scenic in 2000, and major efforts to update DRBC's comprehensive plan and water quality standards, there has been renewed interest in DRBC's biomonitoring program. Meetings with state and local partners resulted in the decision that DRBC should take a lead role in biological monitoring of the Delaware River, and near the mouth of select tributaries. With technical support and advice from NJDEP, PADEP, USGS, US EPA Region 3, the National Park Service, and the Academy of Natural Sciences, DRBC set out to define goals, objectives, and methods for improvement of its biological assessment program for the river.

DRBC investigated large-river methods and decided to wait for the issuance of EPA's large-rivers guidance before launching large-scale monitoring in difficult habitats such as pools, rapids, and upper-estuarine reaches. In 2001, DRBC initiated an annual benthic survey of wadeable riffle, run, and island margin habitats, to develop a benthic index of biological integrity for the non-tidal river. The annual August/September low-flow survey is narrowly defined to eliminate spatial and temporal variability, enabling site-to-site, reach-to-reach, and year-to-year comparison of results. By 2005, DRBC hopes to have enough data to create a low-flow B-IBI (benthic index of biotic integrity, a metric used to assess the quality of a macroinvertebrate community) for wadeable portions of the Delaware River.

There is current interest in monitoring other assemblages in order to gain a more complete picture of the ecological integrity of the Delaware River, and to measure progress toward objectives defined by the Commission's Comprehensive Plan. Methods under investigation would assess submerged aquatic vegetation, fish, mussels, plankton, invasive exotic species, and ecological characterization of over 50 unique microhabitats observed in the river. These investigations have been scheduled on a rotating basis as special studies.

2.2.3 Point Source Control Program

DRBC uses a variety of programs to regulate point source pollutant loadings that would impact the Delaware River. These consist of Docket Review, Special Protection Waters Regulations and Basin-wide minimum treatment standards and interstate cooperative agreements.

Section 3.8 of the Compact states that "No project having substantial effect on the water resources of the basin shall hereafter be undertaken by any person, corporation or governmental authority unless it shall have been first submitted to and approved by the Commission". All discharges to waters of the Basin with a design capacity greater than or equal to 50,000 gallons per day are subject to review by the Commission. In Special Protection Waters, the review threshold is 10,000 gallons per day. Projects are reviewed for potential impacts to the waters of the Basin and for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, which consists of the statements of policies and programs that the Commission determines are necessary to govern the proper development and use of the River Basin (*DRBC Rules of Practice and Procedure, 1997*).

DRBC also implements point source controls through its Special Protection Waters Regulations. All new or expanded discharges, for which DRBC has review authority, in Significant Resource Waters must undertake a non-discharge alternatives analysis and provide a Social and Economic Justification for a locally degrading discharge to be approved. In the case of Outstanding Basin Waters, no degrading discharge is permissible. The regulations state, "Point sources of pollutants discharged to Outstanding Basin Waters shall be treated as required and then dispersed in such a manner that complete mixing of effluent with the receiving stream is, for all practical intents and purposes, instantaneous."

Article 4 of DRBC's Water Quality Regulations identifies Basin-wide minimum treatment standards for wastewater discharges. These include:

- Removal of total suspended solids
- Minimum secondary treatment for biodegradable wastes
- BOD treatment requirements
- Disinfection requirements
- Color standards
- Dissolved substance standards
- pH standards
- Ammonia standards
- Temperature standards

DRBC maintains cooperative agreements with all four Basin States, which provide that all NPDES permits for projects that lie within the Basin must comply with these DRBC standards as well as State standards.

2.2.4 Nonpoint Source Control Program

DRBC regulates non-point pollution as part of the anti-degradation requirements of Special Protection Waters. Under DRBC's Special Protection Water regulations, all new or expanded discharges to the drainage areas of Special Protection Waters must submit for approval a Non-point Source Pollution Control Plan with their application. The plan must control the new or increased non-point source loads generated within the portion of the project's service area that is also located within the drainage area of Special Protection Waters. The plans must document the Best Management Practices to be applied to the project site. Non-point pollution from runoff of developed areas in Special Protection Waters may not be susceptible to antidegradation constraints if they are associated with an existing, non-expanding facility, such as a wastewater treatment plant that is not expanding its service area.

2.2.5 Coordination With Other Agencies

The nature of DRBC's water quality management activities relies on interstate coordination and cooperation. For instance, the agency maintains agreements with all four Basin states regarding permit review, as previously described. Additionally, all new or amended DRBC regulations are ruled on by the Commission, which has representation by the four states and federal government. The SRMP and Estuary Boat Run also rely on cooperation between DRBC and other agencies. The Scenic Rivers Monitoring Program is a partnership between DRBC and the National Park Service, while the Boat Run uses data from Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation's monitoring programs. See Part 3 for more information on these programs.

2.2.6 Special Concerns and Recommendations

- Data Availability – Working to ensure adequate data for assessing the water quality of the Delaware River and for implementing DRBC's many water quality management programs is an ongoing issue.
- Fish Consumption Advisory Consistency – There are discussions ongoing among the Basin States to find a mechanism for ensuring that fish consumption advisories are consistent between states that share common water bodies.
- Lower Delaware River – Efforts to define "Existing Water Quality" for this area have been underway since 2000. In addition, this portion of the River potentially stands to be designated as Special Protection Waters by the DRBC, and subject to the regulatory approaches outlined in section 2.2.1 of this report.
- Maintaining Existing Water Quality – With growth and development pressures increasing in many parts of the Basin, preventing degradation of high quality waters is an important issue. A related issue is trying to identify the links between water quality issues in the main stem and the potential sources of pollution throughout the Basin. To that end, DRBC is evaluating alternatives for partnering with the Basin States to address watershed issues that impact main stem water quality at boundary control points.
- Identifying Natural Background Conditions – Attempting to better characterize natural conditions along the Delaware River continues to be an important topic of discussion, particularly as it applies to setting appropriate water quality goals for the River.